

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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1938 CONSERVATION PROGRAM

General Analysis of Regulation Issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration

In last week's issue of the INFORMATION LETTER, the provisions of the 1938 conservation program which differ from the 1937 program were outlined briefly. Regulations for the national program have been issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Administration and from this docket of rules the Raw Products Bureau of the Association has arranged, in as much detail as possible, a picture of the program as it will particularly affect growers of canning crops in various parts of the country. Changes may be made in certain regulations, but canners and field men will be able to help farmers who grow canning crops by showing them payments for which they may be eligible.

General Plan of Program *

There are two main ways under the 1938 conservation program by which farmers can earn payments: (1) by remaining within acreage allotments of soil-depleting crops; and (2) by carrying out soil-building practices which will preserve and improve soil fertility and prevent wind and water erosion. Soil-building practices applicable in various States have been recommended by State Extension Services and State conservation committees. The schedule of soil-building practices approved for particular counties may be obtained from local conservation committees. Since local committees have figures relating to productivity rates, acreage allotment scale, and practices approved for the locality, it will be necessary for farmers to see local committees or the county extension agent for detailed information.

Maximum payment for most commercial vegetable farms is determined by adding: (1) the amount which may be earned by staying within soil-depleting acreage allotments, which are set for each farm on the basis of information obtained by local committees on crop history and conditions of the farm, and adjusted to meet the national and state allotments for the crops; and (2) *payments in connection with soil-building practices.*

This amount constitutes the maximum payment for the farm which may be earned if the farmer stays within the acreage allotments and fulfills enough units of soil-building practices to meet the farm's soil-building goal. If the farmer does not stay within the acreage allotments, deductions will be made on the basis of several times the rate of payment per pound or bushel which would have been made. Deductions for failure to carry out soil-building practices will be made at the rate of \$1.50 for each unit by which the soil-building goal is not reached.

* To facilitate summarizing the program, details and definitions of terms which are printed in the text in italics, will be found at the end of this summary. It is suggested that the reader refer to these details while reading.

Example of Maximum Payment

Applying the regulations to a theoretical form may make clearer the method whereby the maximum payment is figured.

Throughout this example, arbitrary assumptions are made relative to allotments, productivity, and other factors. These vary for each farm. Moreover, the soil-building practices which a farmer may use must be approved by the local committee.

A 200-acre farm somewhere in the corn-producing area of the Northern States of the Middle West is taken for an example. It is assumed that this farm is located in the area of *Class A farms.*

CROP-ACREAGE HISTORY OF FARM: On this farm, adjustments in crop acreages have been made since 1933 by shifting some of the land in soil-depleting crops to soil-conserv-

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FREIGHT RATE INCREASE

Limited Ten Per Cent Raise Authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission

The application of the rail carriers for authority to make a horizontal increase of 15 per cent in freight rates was not found justified as a whole by the Interstate Commerce Commission in a decision announced on March 8th, but the carriers were granted permission to increase the rates by 10 per cent, subject to certain limitations on agricultural, forestry and mine products. In the findings, the general descriptions of commodities or commodity groups are those prescribed by the Commission's statistical orders and cover the specific items customarily included by carriers in their annual reports to the Commission. Canned foods are not classed as agricultural products. The Commission's finding follows in part:

"All existing rates and charges, including those for accessorial services other than protective service against heat or cold, upon the date of this decision, including those found or prescribed by us as reasonable and not yet effective, may be increased and as increased may be maintained (subject to application of the rule of fractions suggested upon the hearing) by 10 percent, except the rates on products of agriculture other than tropical fruits; except the rates on animals and products and the products thereof and articles taking the same rates, horses and mules not being included in this exception; and except lumber, shingles, and lath, and articles taking lumber rates; and except the rates on cottonseed oil and vegetable oils, n.o.s., other than linseed oil; as to all of which excepted groups of commodities the increase in rates may be 5 percent; and except anthracite, which may be increased 10 cents per ton of 2,000 pounds; and except bituminous coal, lignite, coke, and iron ore, which commodities justly and reasonably should bear no further increases than those already imposed pursuant to authority granted in the case last cited; all import rates may be increased 10 percent, but not to exceed the contemporaneous domestic rates increased as herein provided.

"But in making such increases, all effective increases accomplished under the authority of the decision last cited (July, November and December, 1937), or in the transcontinental rates which were increased in connection therewith as before recited, and in the cotton rates and in those on other commodities effective early in 1937, as above described, shall be taken into account and considered as part of the increases here authorized, so that the above mentioned percentage increases shall not be made cumulative thereon.

"The increases authorized may not reasonably exceed the specific maxima originally proposed by the applicants to be applied upon lumber, sugar, fruits, and vegetables. Such rates and charges, as those upon fresh milk and cream, and those for protective service, which applicants in their petition or on the hearing disclaimed intention to increase, are not included within this authorization and increases on them are not found to have been justified. As increased as above specified, to the extent indicated, but only to that extent, the resulting general basis of rates and charges of the carriers described will be just and reasonable.

"To permit the increased rates and charges herein authorized to be made effective at as early a date as is practicable, they may be made effective upon not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the general public by publishing, filing, and posting in the manner prescribed in the interstate commerce act. However, the authority granted is not to be considered as continuing beyond a reasonable period for the effectuation of the authorized rates and charges, and consequently will not apply to any rates or charges filed to become effective later than July 31, 1938.

"Fourth section relief may be necessary by reason of situations which can not be foreseen at the present time, or sufficiently developed by the record. To the extent that departures may result from accomplishing the increases herein authorized, temporary relief from the long-and-short haul and aggregate-of-intermediates clauses of the fourth section of the act will be granted, to and including November 1, 1938.

"It is understood that in the process of making effective the increases herein authorized the relations between the various ports now existing as differentials will be promptly restored and maintained until modified pursuant to law.

"When tariffs provide that switching charges of other carriers will be absorbed subject to stated maximum absorptions, such maximum absorptions should be increased in the same percentage as the charges. Similarly, where switching charges of connecting carriers are absorbed subject to provisions that the resultant line-haul revenue shall not be less than a stated minimum, such minimum should be increased 10 per cent.

"Our authorization does not extend to increases in the proportions of joint through rates to or from points in foreign countries accruing in such foreign countries. The proportions of such rates accruing within the United States may, however, be increased to the extent authorized herein for rates within the United States.

"There are many rates which are below maximum levels found reasonable by us. Our findings and authorization do not preclude the applicants from publishing and filing increases upon such rates, in the manner provided by law, subject to possible protest and suspension thereof. It is not the intention that anything in our conclusions shall require the reduction of rates now lawfully in effect."

Control of Pea Weevil

A mimeographed statement entitled "Suggestions for the Control of the Pea Weevil in 1938" has just been made avail-

able for distribution by the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The suggestions in the statement were prepared by a committee whose members are federal, state and county workers interested in the pea weevil problem. The statement incorporates the consensus of opinion of the men who were actively engaged in pea weevil control operations, or who were directly associated with these workers. The Association's Raw Products Bureau has been supplied with a number of copies of this statement and will be glad to furnish them to members on request.

Gratifying Response to Questionnaire

The Home Economics Division is gratified at the promptness with which canners have sent in their replies to the questionnaire recently issued by the Division.

Publications of the Association have been sent to the various schools and libraries, or when so designated, to the canning company responding to the questionnaire. The reports upon material on consumer education available in the schools and libraries in communities from which the replies have come will be very useful in furthering the work of the Division.

An interesting feature of the survey is the fact that high school teachers and principals have evidently been greatly interested in having the material of the Association brought to their attention. This increased interest in the subject of canned foods will be beneficial not only to the industry but to the members of the community as well. In many cases both school and public libraries were reported to have no literature on canning and they are eager to receive the authentic information which is being sent to them.

Canners who have not yet responded to the questionnaire will greatly facilitate the work of the Home Economics Division by sending in their replies at an early date.

Department Store Sales in February

Value of department store sales showed a decline in February when allowance is made for usual seasonal changes, according to the Federal Reserve Board, whose adjusted index for that month was 88 per cent as compared with 90 in January and an average of 92 last year. Sales in February were 8 per cent less and in the first two months 6 per cent less than in the corresponding periods a year ago.

Complaint Against Atlantic Commission Company

The Federal Trade Commission has issued a complaint against the Atlantic Commission Company, a subsidiary of the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company, charging that the Commission Company engages in buying, selling and distributing fresh fruits and vegetables both for its own account and as broker, and that it has received and accepted from sellers allowances and discounts in lieu of brokerage in violation of subsection (c) of the Robinson-Patman Act. The complaint filed by the Commission is very brief and general and makes no reference to the relationship between the Commission Company and the Tea Company.

1938 CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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ing crops. Previous to 1934, the average acreages of crops were as follows:

Soil-depleting crops	Soil-conserving crops
100 acres—corn	30 acres—hay, alfalfa, clover, etc.
20 acres—small grains (oats, barley, etc.)	
30 acres—commercial vegetables (tomatoes, potatoes, sweet corn and peas for canning, onions, celery, cabbage, etc.)	Miscellaneous
	15 acres—farm woodland
	5 acres—buildings, waste land, etc.

In 1936 and 1937, this farmer planted an average of 45 acres to commercial vegetables. Fifteen acres of these were devoted to sweet corn and peas for canning, and, as will be seen later, are not classified as commercial vegetables when computing the payment to which this farm is eligible in connection with soil-building practices. This farm did not produce enough potatoes to receive a potato average allotment in 1938.

National acreage allotments for soil-depleting crops are set at levels intended to give production ample for domestic consumption, for exports, and for reserve supplies, and payments are made to encourage farmers to produce up to these allotments. The national allotments are divided among the States producing the commodities. The State allotments will be divided among counties, and the county allotments will be apportioned among individual producers to give each a fair share of the desirable production.

In 1938, this farmer will receive from his county committee the acreage allotments and soil-building goal proper for this farm, which would be as follows:

Corn acreage allotment.....	80 acres
General crop acreage allotment.....	40 acres
Total soil-depleting acreage allotment.....	120 acres
Soil-building goal.....	50 units
Maximum payment for farm.....	\$365.00

ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS: To bring the corn acreage of this farm into line with the State and county corn acreage allotments, and to adjust the farm for productivity acreage diverted under agricultural adjustment and conservation program, weather conditions, and acreage trends, it will be assumed that the county committee has found the corn acreage allotment for this farm to be 80 acres.

To determine the soil-depleting acreage allotment for this farm, the county committeemen must bring the historical acreage into line with the county acreage allotment of soil-depleting crops. It will be assumed in this example that the county committee finds the total soil-depleting acreage allotment of this farm to be 120 acres.

A general crop acreage allotment is to be determined for each Class A farm. This general crop acreage allotment should be the total soil-depleting acreage allotment in excess of the sum of (1) the individual crop acreage allotment established for the farm, (2) the acreage of sugar beets grown on the farm in 1938. No sugar beets were grown on the farm taken as an example and the corn acreage allotment established for this farm is 80 acres. Therefore, the general crop acreage allotment for this farm is 40 acres.

PAYMENT FOR REMAINING WITHIN ACREAGE ALLOTMENTS OF SOIL-DEPLETING CROPS: For planting no more than 80 acres to corn this farmer would receive 10 cents per bushel of the normal yield per acre of corn for the farm for each acre in the corn acreage allotment, or a total of \$240.00. If the acreage planted to corn were less than 80 per cent of the corn acreage allotment and the county committee finds that the failure to plant 80 per cent of this corn acreage allotment was not due to flood or drought, the farmer would be paid on the basis not of the corn acreage allotment but for 125 per cent of the acreage actually planted to corn. For remaining within the acreage allotment for the general soil-depleting crops, which includes all commercial vegetables, this farmer would be paid \$1.25 per acre, adjusted for productivity. Assuming that this farm has a productivity of 100 per cent, this payment would amount to \$50.00.

FARM PLAN UNDER THE 1938 PROGRAM: The picture of this farm as it will be under the 1938 program can be seen now. The farm plan will be as follows:

Corn.....	80 acres
Commercial vegetables.....	30 acres
Small grains.....	10 acres
Hay, alfalfa, clover, etc.....	60 acres
Woodland, waste, building, etc.....	20 acres
Total.....	200 acres

PAYMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH SOIL-BUILDING PRACTICES: The amount which this farmer can receive on this particular farm for doing the maximum in soil-building practices will next be computed. The average total crop land on the farm, then, was 180 acres. The total soil-depleting acreage allotment for this farm was assumed to be 120 acres and this farm is eligible for the first payment listed in connection with soil-building practices: "50 cents per acre of crop land in the farm in excess of the total soil-depleting acreage allotment for the farm (applicable only to Class A farms)." The crop land on this farm is 60 acres greater than the soil-depleting acreage allotment. In this case this farmer is eligible to earn \$30.00 by soil-building practices.

Under the second in the list of payments, "\$1.50 per acre of the average acreage of land on which commercial vegetables were grown on the farm in 1936 and 1937", this farmer is eligible to earn a payment. The definition of commercial vegetables in this case does not include sweet corn or peas for canning. Fifteen acres of these crops for canning were planted on this farm in 1936 and 1937. But this farmer is eligible to earn a payment of \$45.00 by soil-building practices computed on the basis of the 30 acres planted in 1936 and 1937 to the other vegetables.

SOIL-BUILDING GOAL: The soil-building goal for any farm is the number of units of soil-building practices equal to two-thirds of the number of dollars computed for the farm under payments in connection with soil-building practices. The number of dollars computed for the farm used in the example is \$75.00, and two-thirds of this equals 50 units. From the schedule of soil-building practices applicable to the particular county, the farmer may select, and must have approved by the county committee, practices which he wishes to use on this farm.

Another Example of Maximum Payment

For those growers of canning crops who have no special acreage allotments for crops, the following example of a North Central Region farm may more nearly meet their situation:

Farm data:	
Cropland	60.0 acres
Total depleting acreage allotment	40.0 acres
Productivity	100%
General depleting acreage	40.0 acres
Conserving acreage	20.0 acres
Commercial orchards	10.0 acres
Commercial vegetables	10.0 acres
Non-crop open pasture	30.0 acres
Soil-building goal	34.4 units
Assuming 1 animal unit for each 5 acres	

1. Payment for full performance.

Total farm allowance:

General depleting acreage— (40.0 A. \times \$1.25 \times 100%)	\$50.00
Soil-conserving acreage (20.0 A. \times 50¢)	10.00
Commercial vegetables (10.0 A. \times \$1.50)	15.00
Commercial orchards (10.0 A. \times \$2.00)	20.00
Non-crop open pasture— (30.0 A. \times 2¢ = 60¢ + (\$1.00 \times 6) animal units)	6.60

Total	\$101.60
Plus small payment increase	14.00

Total payment for full performance

Soil-building goal— $2/3 \times$ (\$10.00 + \$15.00 + \$20.00 + \$6.60)—	34.4 units
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2. Payment for partial performance if 1938 crops are as listed below:

Crops:

Total soil-depleting acreage	43.0 A.
Conserving acreage	17.0 A.

Total

Total soil-depleting acreage	43.0 A.
Total soil-depleting allotment	40.0 A.

Excess depleting acreage	3.0 A.
Total farm allowance	\$101.60
Deduction (3.0 A. \times \$1.25 \times 100% \times 8)	30.00

Net partial payment	71.60
Plus small payment increase	14.00

Total partial payment

DETAILS AND DEFINITIONS

Soil-Depleting Crops

As in the 1937 agricultural conservation program all vegetables and canning crops for all regions are classified as soil-depleting. Other crops in this classification are corn (including field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn but excluding sown or close-drilled corn used as a cover crop or green manure crop), tobacco (except that Georgia-Florida Type 62 tobacco shall be classified as provided in the 1938 Agricultural Program Bulletin, Supplement No. 2), grain sorghums, cotton, sugar beets, sugarcane, rice, peanuts harvested for nuts, commercial mustard, hemp, broomcorn, mint, mangels and cowbeets, cultivated sunflowers, truck and vegetable crops (including strawberries, melons and sweet potatoes) and their seeds, potatoes, bulbs and flowers, safflower, field beans and canning peas.

Land from which any of the following crops is harvested for silage, hay, grain or seed in 1938 is classified as in soil-depleting use: Wheat, oats, barley, rye, buckwheat, rape, sudan grass, millet, sown or close-drilled corn, soybeans, cowpeas and field peas.

The acreage of land which is devoted simultaneously to two or more of the above soil-depleting crops shall be divided among such crops as are harvested for canning and field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn hogged off or cut for silage, fodder or other similar uses, will be deemed to have reached maturity.

Sweet Corn and Corn Acreage Allotments

If a corn acreage allotment is established for any farm, all acreages of field corn, sweet corn, and popcorn will be regarded as corn acreage for the purpose of determining whether the corn acreage allotment for such farm has been exceeded, except (1) any acreage of sweet corn contracted to be sold for canning; (2) any acreage of sweet corn sold for canning or roasting ears; and (3) any acreage of popcorn sold as popcorn.

Class A and Class B Farms

Class A farms are farms for which general crop acreage allotments are established and include:

1. All farms in the North Central Region and in North Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas.

2. All farms in the following counties in Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, California, and Arkansas: Montana.—Glacier, Pondera, Teton, Lewis and Clark, Broadwater, Gallatin, and all counties east thereof.

Wyoming.—Campbell, Converse, Creek, Goshen, Johnson, Laramie, Niobrara, Platte, Sheridan, Weston.

Colorado.—Larimer, Boulder, Jefferson, Teller, El Paso, Pueblo, Huerfano, Las Animas, and all counties east thereof.

New Mexico.—Colfax, Mora, San Miguel, Guadalupe, De Baca, Chaves, Eddy, and all counties east thereof.

California.—Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Merced, Monterey, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Solano, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Ventura, Yolo, Yuba, and that portion of Placer County lying west of the east boundary of Township 9 East, Mt. Diablo Meridian.

Arkansas.—Arkansas, Baxter, Benton, Boone, Carroll, Clay, Crawford, Franklin, Fulton, Grant, Greene, Independence, Johnson, Lawrence, Logan, Leno, Madison, Marion, Newton, Perry, Prairie, Randolph, Saline, Scott, Searcy, Sebastian, Sharp, Stone, Van Buren, Washington, and Yell.

3. All farms in Aroostook County, Maine, for which potato acreage allotments are established; and

4. All farms in the Northeast Region on which the average acreage of commercial vegetables grown on the farm in 1936 and 1937 exceeds 50 per cent of the acreage of cropland in excess of the sum of the average acreages of potatoes and tobacco grown on the farm in 1936 and 1937.

Class B farms means all farms which are not Class A farms.

Payments For Remaining Within Acreage Allotments

1. Cotton.—2.4 cents per pound of the normal yield per acre of cotton for the farm for each acre in the cotton acreage allotment; or, if the acreage planted to cotton is

less than 80 per cent of the cotton acreage allotment and the county committee finds that the failure to plant 80 per cent of such cotton acreage allotment was not due to flood or drought, for 125 per cent of the acreage planted to cotton.

2. *Corn*.—10 cents per bushel of the normal yield per acre of corn for the farm for each acre in the corn acreage allotment; or if the acreage planted to corn is less than 80 per cent of the corn acreage allotment and the county committee finds that the failure to plant 80 per cent of such corn acreage allotment was not due to flood or drought, for 125 per cent of the acreage planted to corn.

3. *Wheat*.—12 cents per bushel of the normal yield per acre of wheat for the farm for each acre in the wheat acreage allotment; or, if the acreage planted to wheat is less than 80 per cent of the wheat acreage allotment and the county committee finds that the failure to plant 80 per cent of such wheat acreage allotment was not due to flood or drought for 125 per cent of the acreage planted to wheat.

4. *Tobacco*.—The following number of cents per pound of the normal yield per acre of tobacco for the farm for each acre in the tobacco acreage allotment for each of the following kinds of tobacco:

(a) Burley.....	0.5 cent
(b) Flue-cured.....	1.0 cent
(c) Fire-cured and dark air-cured.....	1.5 cents
(d) Cigar filler and binder.....	1.0 cent
(e) Georgia-Florida Type 62.....	1.5 cents

Provided, That in the case of cigar filler and binder tobacco, if the acreage planted to such kind of tobacco is less than 80 per cent of the acreage allotment therefor and the county committee finds that the failure to plant 80 per cent of the acreage allotment was not due to flood, drought, or plant-bed diseases, the payment shall be computed on 125 per cent of the acreage planted to cigar filler and binder tobacco.

5. *Potatoes*.—3 cents per bushel of the normal yield per acre of potatoes for the farm for each acre of potatoes planted on the farm in 1938 not in excess of the potato acreage allotment.

6. *Peanuts*.—0.2 of a cent per pound of the normal yield per acre of peanuts for the farm for each acre in the peanut acreage allotment.

7. *Rice*.—0.125 of a cent per pound of the normal yield per acre of rice for the farm for each acre in the rice acreage allotment, or if the acreage planted to rice is less than 80 per cent of the rice acreage allotment and the county committee finds that failure to plant 80 per cent of such rice acreage allotment was not due to flood or drought, for 125 per cent of the acreage planted to rice.

8. *General soil-depleting crops on Class A farms*.—\$1.25 per acre adjusted for productivity, for each acre in the general crop acreage allotment in excess of one-half of the sum of the cotton, Burley tobacco and fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco acreage allotments established for the farm.

Payments in Connection With Soil-Building Practices

1. 50 cents per acre of cropland in the farm in excess of the total soil-depleting acreage allotment for the farm (applicable only to Class A farms).

2. \$1.50 per acre of the average acreage of land on which commercial vegetables were grown on the farm in 1936 and 1937.

3. \$2.00 per acre of commercial orchards on the farm January 1, 1938.

4. (a) 2 cents per acre of noncrop open pasture land in the farm, plus \$1.00 for each animal unit of grazing capacity (on a 12-month basis) of such pasture, in the North Central Region and in Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and California.

(b) 3 cents per acre of noncrop open pasture land plus 75 cents for each animal unit of grazing capacity (on a 12-month basis) of such pasture, in North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

(c) 25 cents per acre of fenced noncrop open pasture land in excess of one-half of the number of acres of cropland in the farm which is capable of maintaining during the normal pasture season at least one animal unit for each five acres of such pasture land, in the East Central Region and States other than Texas and Oklahoma in the Southern Region.

(d) 40 cents per acre of fenced noncrop open pasture land, in excess of one-half of the number of acres of cropland in the farm, which is capable of maintaining during the normal pasture season at least one animal unit for each five acres of such pasture land, in the Northeast Region.

5. 70 cents per acre of cropland on any Class B farm in excess of the sum of (1) the corn, wheat, rice, potato, peanut, cigar filler and binder tobacco, and Georgia-Florida Type 62 tobacco acreage allotments established for the farm; (2) the acreage of sugar beets and sugarcane for sugar grown on the farm in 1938; (3) two times the cotton, flue-cured tobacco, Burley tobacco, and fire-cured and dark air-cured tobacco acreage allotments established for the farm; and (4) in the Western Region the normal acreage of summer fallow for the farm, not in excess of the wheat acreage allotment established for the farm.

SOIL CONSERVING ACREAGE means the total acreage of cropland in any Class A farm in excess of the total soil-depleting acreage allotment established for the farm.

CROPLAND means farm land which is tilled annually or in a regular rotation, excluding commercial orchards, restoration land, and any land which constitutes, or will constitute if such tillage is continued, a wind erosion hazard to the community, but including any other land which has been planted since January 1, 1930, to permanent pasture or forest trees and which was classified as cropland under the 1937 Agricultural Conservation Program, and including also land planted to noncommercial orchards other than abandoned orchards.

COMMERCIAL ORCHARDS means the acreage in planted or cultivated fruit trees, nut trees, vineyards, hops, or bush fruits on the farm on January 1, 1938 (excluding non-bearing orchards and vineyards), from which the principal part of the production is normally sold.

COMMERCIAL VEGETABLES means the acreage of vegetables or truck crops (including potatoes on farms where a potato acreage allotment is not established, sweet potatoes, tomatoes, sweet corn, melons, cantaloupes, strawberries, and commercial bulbs and flowers, but excluding peas for canning and sweet corn for canning and artichokes for use other than as vegetables) of which the principal part of the production is sold to persons not living on the farm.

NONCROP OPEN PASTURE means pasture land (other than rotation pasture land and range land) on which the predominant growth is forage suitable for grazing and on which the number or grouping of any trees or shrubs is such that the land could not fairly be considered as woodland.

Schedule of Soil-Building Practices

Lists of approved soil-building practices to be used in earning the soil-building payments for which the farmer is eligible, may be obtained from the office of the County Conservation Committee or the office of the county extension agent.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot Shipments as Reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

VEGETABLES	Week ending—			Season total to—	
	Mar. 5, 1937	Mar. 5, 1938	Feb. 26, 1938	Mar. 5, 1937	Mar. 5, 1938
Beans, snap and lima	85	166	246	4,596	3,594
Tomatoes	472	668	554	4,722	4,636
Green peas	41	144	134	760	1,273
Spinach	299	392	268	5,145	4,469
Others:					
Domestic, competing directly	3,978	4,489	4,454	88,770	88,220
Imports competing—					
Directly	54	64	68	1,425	1,997
Indirectly	68	78	56	627	605
FRUITS					
Citrus, domestic	3,827	3,375	4,321	77,242	73,712
Others, domestic	202	242	177	27,429	27,362

Rapid Growth in Argentine Pear Industry

Argentina in a few years will rank among the world's most important producers and exporters of pears, according to a report received by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from its office in Buenos Aires. Indicative of the rapidity with which new plantings have taken place during the past six years, is the fact that the number of trees now under cultivation is placed at approximately 3,300,000 compared with 2,600,000 in 1932.

The total crop in 1938 is expected to amount to 2,700,000 boxes of 44 pounds each compared with 2,000,000 boxes in 1937. It is believed that the crop in another 10 years will be more than doubled as new trees come into bearing.

Most of the pears grown in the Argentine at the present time are of the Williams (Bartlett) variety. In 1937 approximately 87 per cent of the pears grown in the Rio Negro Valley and 78 per cent of those grown in Mendoza were of this variety. The Williams is an all-purpose pear, suitable for consumption in the fresh state as well as for canning and for drying.

Argentine pear exports in 1937 amounted to 565,000 boxes compared with 14,000 boxes in 1932. The expansion of the export outlets has been especially rapid in England, Brazil, France, the United States and Sweden.

Argentine exporters enjoy a seasonal advantage in the sale of pears in foreign markets. Export is confined largely to the months of January, February and March when supplies in most Northern Hemisphere countries are at low levels.

Harry White to Head Home Economics Committee

Fred B. Childs, chairman of the Home Economics Committee, has resigned as a member of the Committee, and Clarence M. Walters has been appointed to succeed him. President Karl Kuner Mayer has named Harry A. White to succeed Mr. Childs as chairman.

CANADIAN CAN SIZES

Dominion Department of Agriculture Prepares Schedule for Enactment by Order-in-Council

Under date of February 23, 1938, Mr. R. L. Wheeler, Fruit Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture of Canada, issued a statement designated as "F. B. C. 4/38," which submits a schedule of containers for canned fruit and vegetables and their products, as now drafted for early enactment by Order-in-Council under the Canadian Meat and Foods Act. The statement lists the sizes of cans that are to be approved for specified products and provides that the quantity of contents, instead of being declared by weight as has been required heretofore, shall be declared in terms of the fluid ounce capacity based on the "actual commercial fill rather than the gross capacity."

The statement also says that "concurrently the labeling regulations are being amended to require all cans to be labeled 'Canada Size—Fluid Ozs.' instead of net weight. The style of this marking will be illustrated in the regulations, inside a circle the figures to be not less than 3/16 inch in height for cans of over 10 fluid ozs. capacity."

The list of products and can size declarations, with outside dimensions of cans, follows:

(a) Apples, apple sauce, apricots, blackberries, blueberries, cherries, fruit cocktail, fruits for salad, grapefruit, gooseberries, loganberries, peaches, pears, plums, raspberries, rhubarb, strawberries:

Can size declarations	Outside dimensions	
	Diameter	Height
8 fluid ozs.	211	x 304
10 " "	211	x 400
	303	x 406
16 " "	301	x 411
	307	x 313
20 " "	307	x 409
28 " "	401	x 411
52 " "	502	x 505
106 " "	603	x 700

(b) Solid pack pie fruits, apricots, cherries, peaches:

12 fluid ozs.	307	x 302
106 " "	603	x 700

(c) Pineapple, Malayan:

8 fluid ozs.	307	x 203
18 " "	404	x 212
19 " "	307	x 404

(d) Pineapple, other:

8 fluid ozs.	211	x 304
	307	x 203
15 " "	303	x 400
20 " "	307	x 409
24 " " (Spears only)	307	x 506
28 " "	401	x 411
106 " "	603	x 700

(e) Fruit and vegetable juice (except tomato juice):

8 fluid ozs.	211	x 304
10 " "	211	x 400
15 " "	300	x 407
	307	x 409
20 " "	303	x 504
25 " "	307	x 510
28 " "	401	x 411
52 " "	502	x 505
106 " "	603	x 700

(f) Tomato juice:

10 fluid ozs.	211	x 400
	303	x 406
16 " "	301	x 411
	307	x 313

Can size declarations	Outside dimensions Diameter Height
20 " "	{ 307 x 409 303 x 504
25 " "	307 x 510
28 " "	401 x 411
52 " "	502 x 505
106 " "	603 x 700

(g) Tomatoes:

8 fluid ozs.	300 x 204
10 " "	211 x 400
16 " "	{ 303 x 406 301 x 411
20 " "	307 x 313
28 " "	307 x 409
52 " "	401 x 411
106 " "	603 x 700

(h) Asparagus:

8 fluid ozs.	211 x 304
12 " "	211 x 409
16 " "	{ 303 x 406 301 x 411
20 " "	307 x 409
106 " "	603 x 700

(i) Beans, beets, carrots, corn (cream style and brine), peas, peas and carrots, vegetable macedoine:

Can size declarations	Outside dimensions Diameter Height
8 fluid ozs.	211 x 304
10 " "	211 x 400
16 " "	{ 303 x 406 301 x 411
20 " "	307 x 313
28 " "	307 x 409
106 " "	603 x 700

(j) Pumpkin, sauerkraut, spinach, squash, succotash:

8 fluid ozs.	211 x 304
16 " "	{ 303 x 406 301 x 411
20 " "	307 x 313
28 " "	307 x 409
52 " "	401 x 411
106 " "	603 x 700

(k) Infant foods:

5 fluid ozs.	202 x 214
8 " "	211 x 304

(l) Baked beans, pork and beans, spaghetti:

6 fluid ozs.	300 x 204
10 " "	211 x 400
15 " "	300 x 407
16 " "	{ 303 x 406 301 x 411
20 " "	303 x 504
28 " "	401 x 411
106 " "	603 x 700

(m) Soups, ready-to-serve:

6 fluid ozs.	202 x 307
10 " "	211 x 400
16 " "	303 x 406
28 " "	401 x 411
52 " "	502 x 505
106 " "	603 x 700

(n) Soups, condensed:

6 fluid ozs.	202 x 307
10 " "	211 x 400
22 " "	303 x 509
52 " "	502 x 505
106 " "	603 x 700

(o) Containers of dimensions specified in applications for approval of labels therefor with unnamed products or processes, upon approval of such labels and containers.

(p) Containers of one-half gallon or greater capacity with fruit or vegetables for manufacture or remanufacture, upon approval of labels for and dimensions of such containers.

CZECHOSLOVAKIAN TRADE AGREEMENT

Concessions Are Made to the United States on Both Canned and Dried Fruits

Reductions in the duties levied by Czechoslovakia on imports of canned fruits, vegetables, salmon, and pilchards from the United States were among the concessions granted to the United States in a trade agreement signed on March 7th by the two countries.

The reductions granted on canned items have been summarized by the State Department as follows:

"The duties on canned fruits and vegetables were very high in Czechoslovakia amounting in many cases to 100 per cent or more. Most of these duties have been reduced substantially in the agreement, in some cases by over one-half, namely, for pineapples and vegetable and fruit juices (except raspberry, apple, and grape). Other reductions ranging from nearly two-thirds to about one-third were obtained for asparagus, other vegetables (except tomatoes, which were bound), tomato sauces, and all other fruits. The new duties per pound, including the weight of the cans or bottles, are slightly more than 3 cents for pineapples and the juices (with the exceptions noted), 5 cents for asparagus, tomatoes, and tomato sauces, slightly under 6 cents for all other fruits, and slightly under 7 cents for all other vegetables.

"Because of the high duties on canned salmon and pilchards (about 10 cents per pound), imports into Czechoslovakia of these products from the United States have been negligible in the past. A duty of about 5¼ cents per pound has been obtained for canned salmon and for pilchards in oil, this rate being equal to the lowest duty previously accorded to any canned fish, and a still lower duty of about 3 cents per pound was obtained for pilchards in tomato sauce.

"Substantial duty reductions were also obtained on fresh and dried fruits. The duties on fine table apples and pears were reduced by one-half and three-eighths respectively for specified seasons, and on grapefruit by one-sixth. The inspection fee on apples and pears was reduced from 2.10 to 1.10 Czechoslovak crowns per 100 kilograms, or by 1.6 cents per 100 pounds.

"The previous duties on fine table apples and pears were moderate; the main advantage in the reductions lies in narrowing the spread between the duties on fine fruits, supplied almost entirely by the United States, and on ordinary fruits, supplied chiefly by European countries, from nearly a cent to about one-third cent per pound. According to Czechoslovak customs practice, fine table fruit is that which is packed in boxes or which is wrapped individually or packed in layers separated by cardboard. Such packing is required to preserve United States fruit on the long voyage, whereas fruit from nearby European countries can be shipped into Czechoslovakia in bulk or packed loose.

"The duties on dried fruits were reduced by one-fourth for raisins, by one-sixth for prunes in small crates, and by one-half for apricots, peaches, and compote (mixed fruits). Duties on dried fruits packed for retail sale were reduced from a prohibitive level of almost 20 cents per pound to the relatively moderate duties obtained for like fruits in wholesale containers, except in the case of dried apples and pears, which are to be assessed about 1 cent per pound when

packed for retail sale but are otherwise bound on the free list. The reduced trade-agreement duties on other dried fruits are about 3 cents per pound for raisins, 1 cent per pound for apricots, peaches, and compote, and but little over one-half cent per pound for prunes, while prunes in containers weighing over 110 pounds are bound on the free list. The permissible sulphur dioxide content of all dried fruit has been increased to 2,000 milligrams per kilogram (0.2 per cent). This concession is of particular importance because the previous legal content was not sufficiently high to keep the fruit in good condition during the ocean crossing."

The agreement is the seventeenth signed by the United States under the provisions of the Trade Agreements Act of 1934 and is the seventh to be concluded with a European country. It will become provisionally effective on April 16th, pending approval of the National Assembly and ratification by the President of the Czechoslovak Republic.

CONGRESS SUMMARY

House Subcommittee Draft of Food and Drug Bill Ready for Full Committee Action

The House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce spent two mornings of the past week in a general discussion of Committee Print No. 4 of the food and drug bill (S. 5) which had been given subcommittee approval late in the preceding week. Although the full Committee has reached no conclusions a meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 15th, to further discuss food and drug legislation and it is expected that the Committee will be prepared to file a final report on the bill within a short time.

This latest draft of the Copeland bill contains several changes from Committee Print No. 3 which was approved and released last August by the subcommittee and noted in the INFORMATION LETTER for August 21, 1937. At that time the Committee announced that "the bill as reported by the subcommittee of which Mr. Lea acted as chairman will be considered by the full Committee in the early days of the next session. The Committee will then have the advantage of any constructive criticisms that may be presented. Some corrective amendments will doubtless be made at the next session, but it is probable the bill will be reported to the House pretty much in line with the subcommittee's report."

The corrective amendments of main interest to canners include the addition of a court review section and a clarifying change in the language authorizing the promulgation of a reasonable quality standard for any food.

The court review section would permit any person adversely affected by an order issued by the Secretary of Agriculture to file a complaint prior to its effective date in a Federal District Court "to enjoin the Secretary from placing the order in effect and to compel him to modify the order in the respects set forth in the complaint".

In the section authorizing the promulgation of regulations establishing definitions and standards for foods the subcommittee inserted a qualifying restriction which would limit a regulation to a food "under its common or usual name so far as practicable". Committee Print No. 3 read "Whenever in the judgment of the Secretary such action will pro-

mote honesty and fair dealing in the interest of consumers, he shall promulgate regulations fixing and establishing for any food or class of food a reasonable definition and standard of identity, a reasonable standard of quality, and/or reasonable standards of fill of container". The revised print omits the words "or class of food" and substitutes the above quoted restriction.

Another food and drug bill (H.R. 9766) was introduced in the House on March 7th by Representative Rees of Kansas. The bill is similar to the one under House Committee consideration, but provides for the promulgation of "standards of quality" for food products rather than for one single quality standard.

The Conference Committee report on the Wheeler-Lea bill (see last week's INFORMATION LETTER) has not yet been called up in the Senate. It is understood that Senator Wheeler will not ask for Senate approval of the amended bill until an opportunity presents itself for Senator Copeland to speak on the advertising control features which were inserted by the House.

Representative Ramspeck's wage and hour subcommittee of the House Labor Committee continued with the work of drafting a compromise bill. According to latest reports their efforts will culminate in a report to the full Committee within the next week.

Debate on the tax bill occupied the time of the House during the week. An amendment to the tax bill providing for an excise tax of six cents a pound on imported pork products was adopted by the House on Thursday. Representative Thompson of Illinois proposed the tax as an addition to the present tariff of three and one-fourth cents per pound.

The Senate considered the government reorganization bill and on March 9th passed and sent to the House an authorization for the Surplus Commodities Corporation to use the remainder of a \$1,000,000 appropriation granted last year for the purchase and relief distribution of the products of the fishing industry. An additional \$2,000,000 for diversion of fish and shellfish through the Surplus Commodities Corporation would be made available by H.R. 9765, which was introduced in the House on March 7th by Representative Caldwell of Florida.

Cold Storage Holdings

United States apple holdings in cold storage warehouses on March 1 were 19,573,000 bushels, a record-high for that date. This compares with 12,193,000 in 1937, 17,928,000 in 1936, and 13,938,000 bushels on March 1, 1935.

Winter pears (in boxes) in cold storage on March 1 amounted to 318,000 boxes—slightly below the 5-year (1933-37) average holdings.

Supplies of frozen and preserved fruits in cold storage on March 1 were about double the holdings of a year ago, or 110,807,000 pounds compared with 55,825,000 pounds.

Stocks of "quick-freeze" vegetables on March 1 were 2,648,000 pounds less than those on February 1 but were 15,701,000 pounds greater than the March 1, 1937, holdings.

	March 1, 1937	Feb. 1, 1938	March 1, 1938
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
Apples:			
Barrels.....	121	322	217
Western boxes.....	6,809	10,958	8,017
Bushels.....	5,021	14,356	10,905
Pears:			
Bartlett (packed boxes)...	21	18	14
Bartlett (loose boxes).....	2	4	3
Others (boxes).....	213	620	318
Others (baskets).....	14	20	12
Frozen fruits:			
Strawberries (pounds).....	9,631	25,852	24,822
Blueberries (pounds).....	2,357	7,079	7,142
Cherries (pounds).....	8,039	21,147	18,564
Others (pounds).....	35,798	64,564	60,279
Frozen vegetables:			
Peas (pounds).....	3,563	9,403	8,342
Beans, cut (pounds).....	1,184	1,843	1,796
Beans, lima (pounds).....	2,267	5,097	4,907
Corn (pounds).....	757	2,117	1,911
Spinach (pounds).....	355	2,342	2,188
Others (pounds).....	2,165	7,838	6,848

STORAGE TEMPERATURES

Instances of Inadequate Control Come to Attention of the Laboratory

The importance of cooling canned foods adequately before they are sealed in fiber containers or stacked in the warehouse was emphasized in the INFORMATION LETTER for September 11, 1937. Even when cans are properly cooled before being placed in the warehouse, however, the temperatures to which they are exposed, not only in the canner's warehouse but also during shipment and in the distributor's warehouse later, are all important. Exposure to excessive temperature causes an appearance of stack burn in some products and leads to the formation of perforations or springers in other products.

A good discussion of this matter with reference to red colored fruits is given in Bulletin 23-L, on "Storage Temperatures for Canned Fruits."

It is not merely the general temperature of the storage warehouse that should be controlled. Exposure of any of the cans in the warehouse to excessive temperatures is detrimental to the appearance, flavor, and keeping quality of those cans. In storage rooms that are heated by a stove the temperature of the cans and cases closest to the stove sometimes is higher than it should be.

It not infrequently happens that a stack of canned foods is stored in the immediate vicinity of a steam pipe, either in the canner's warehouse, the distributor's warehouse, or even in the retailer's establishment. In such cases the contents of cans nearest to the steam pipe are often materially damaged in appearance and flavor. Three instances of this arose in the ordinary service work of the Research Laboratory during the last few weeks. These three instances were with widely different products—cream style corn, tomato catsup, and tomato juice. The cream style corn was markedly stack burned. The color was very dark and the odor and flavor of the product gave evidence of scorching. No records were available from which the responsibility for the overheating could be established.

The samples of tomato catsup referred to presented a most

unusual phenomenon. The catsup was in bottles of the ordinary type. The catsup in some of these bottles was normal in color and flavor, while that in others was uniformly dark and the flavor gave evidence of scorching. In still other bottles the catsup at one end of the bottle was dark and had a scorched flavor and odor and that in the other end of the bottle was normal in appearance and flavor. It was possible to separate a portion of the catsup from each end of these bottles and the difference was striking. Evidently this change must have occurred during storage. The cause of it is not known. The only explanation suggested is the probable proximity of a steam pipe to these particular bottles.

The tomato juice referred to was in cans, the contents of some of which were normal, whereas the contents of one can were discolored and had an astringent flavor. The interior surface of this can showed marked corrosion and the astringent flavor was probably due to iron dissolved from the can. Fortunately, the records of this plant were so complete that it was possible to demonstrate that the case from which this particular can was taken stood next to a steam pipe, which undoubtedly was responsible for the deterioration of the tomato juice and the excessive corrosion of the can.

GOVERNMENT CROP REPORTS

Green Peas for Manufacture

Reports from processors to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics indicate an intended decrease in the 1938 plantings of green peas for manufacture of about 5 per cent below the record acreage of 353,170 acres planted in 1937. Should these plans of late February be carried out in the various States, the plantings of green peas for canning and freezing will total 334,920 acres in 1938.

The reporting firms were well distributed among practically all important producing areas. They grew or contracted about 66 per cent of the canning pea acreage estimated for 1937. Plans to reduce acreage are most noticeable in the group of States consisting of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Abandonment of planted acreage by reason of unfavorable growing conditions has varied widely since the 1930 season. Three of these recent eight years have shown unusually heavy abandonment and the average loss of planted acreage has been around 9 per cent for the 8 year (1930-37) period.

If a 9 per cent loss of planted acreage is assumed for the 1938 season, a planting of 334,920 acres would result in about 304,800 acres for harvest. A yield of 1,560 pounds per acre, representing approximately average growing conditions of the 10-year (1927-36) period, would produce a crop of about 238,000 tons for canning and freezing. From past relationships between the estimated tonnage of green peas, and the size of the canned pack, such a tonnage may result in a pack around 21,000,000 cases containing 24 No. 2 cans and provide a quantity for freezing about in line with the proportion used in recent years for that purpose. The pack of canned peas in 1937 was about 24,000,000 cases (No. 2 cans).

The following table shows, by groups of States, the acreages which would result if these late February intentions to contract and plant peas are carried out in 1938. Since these plans may be modified before plantings are actually made, they are not to be considered, the Bureau states, as estimates

of the planted acreage for the coming season. They are to be considered rather as a guide in making necessary adjustments in acreage plans before the planting operations actually begin.

State	Planted Acreage			Intended 1938
	1935	1936	1937 (Revised)	
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Acres</i>
Maine.....	2,520	2,700	3,500	
New York.....	36,000	39,600	33,300	43,200
Pennsylvania.....	4,850	4,850	6,000	
Ohio.....	5,000	4,200	4,900	
Indiana.....	8,000	8,000	8,300	
Illinois.....	20,000	18,600	19,000	173,700
Michigan.....	15,000	15,300	16,500	
Wisconsin.....	133,300	120,000	118,500	
Minnesota.....	24,000	22,800	25,200	
Delaware.....	3,400	2,800	3,100	29,250
Maryland.....	18,500	18,000	21,000	
Virginia.....	5,200	5,700	5,900	
Montana.....	2,800	2,520	2,580	
Colorado.....	4,210	4,190	3,880	
Utah.....	13,600	13,300	14,100	70,390
Washington.....	16,000	22,000	28,100	
Oregon.....	9,300	17,000	22,100	
Other States a.....	19,680	15,940	17,210	18,380
Total.....	341,360	337,500	353,170	334,920

a Other States include Arkansas, California, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas and Wyoming.

California Canning Spinach

The 1938 revised acreage of California spinach for canning as now estimated for harvest totals 10,000 acres, as compared with 16,720 acres harvested in 1937 and with an average of 9,280 acres for the 5-year (1928-32) period.

From reports of March 7 and 8, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics points out that some loss of spinach acreage in the central districts followed the excessive rains. Spinach in fields of standing water was yellowing and yields may not reach present expectations. The indicated yield of 3 tons per acre is somewhat in line with the average yield of 1936 when similar flood conditions prevailed in the spinach sections.

Harvest is in progress in the southern areas but will not start in the northern districts until the end of the month. The following table shows the acreage, indicated yield and forecast of production of canning spinach for 1938:

Year	Acreage (harvested)	Yield per acre	Production
	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Tons</i>	<i>Tons</i>
1933.....	8,200	3.9	32,000
1934.....	13,420	2.8	37,600
1935.....	13,410	3.6	48,300
1936.....	12,970	3.2	41,500
1937.....	16,720	2.6	43,500
1938 (forecast).....	10,000	3.0	30,000

Asparagus

Production of asparagus in the two early southern States (Georgia and South Carolina) is expected to be 13 per cent

below last year's production, and 4 per cent below the 5-year (1928-32) average production. The indicated production is 410,000 crates this year, compared with 472,000 crates in 1937 and the 5-year average of 427,000 crates. This indicated decrease below last year is due mainly to the smaller acreages available for cutting in both States—10,100 acres this year, compared with 11,500 acres in 1937. Crop conditions reported on March 1 indicate that yields per acre will average the same as a year ago in South Carolina but somewhat lower in Georgia. Part of the crop in both States will probably be taken by canners. In 1937, canners used about 26 per cent of the production in Georgia and 18 per cent in South Carolina.

A total of 71,510 acres is reported in California, including that from which canners will secure their requirements, compared with 67,260 acres last year. An indication of production cannot be made at this date. Last year canners took the production from 43,750 acres.

Market Tomatoes

Reports from the second early section—California (Imperial), Florida (other), and Texas (Lower Valley)—indicate an increase of 55 per cent over last year in tomato acreage, or 42,200 acres compared with 27,300 acres harvested in 1937. The increase is due mainly to the large acreage (23,500 acres) reported in central and north Florida. This acreage is about double the harvested acreage of last season and about 18 per cent larger than the planted acreage, of which a large part was destroyed by heavy rains.

With the exception of 30,000 acres harvested in 1924, it is the largest on record in this area. Last year the tonnage taken by canners left an equivalent of 10,800 acres for fresh market production, from the total of 12,000 acres harvested. In Imperial Valley, California, there is a reported decrease of 17 per cent below 1937, and in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas an increase of 20 per cent.

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